



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

May 11, 2009

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 815 (COGDILL) WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 97-A, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF MAY 12, 2009)**

Item No. 97-A on the May 12, 2009 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich recommending that the Board of Supervisors support SB 815, and send a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, the Los Angeles County State Legislative representatives, and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee urging support of this bill.

SB 815, as amended on May 6, 2009, would establish the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program for qualifying members of the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and the Naval Militia. The bill would require that an applicant must meet the following requirements: 1) be a California resident; 2) be an active member of the California National Guard (CNG), the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia and have served for at least two years; 3) be an accepted or registered student at a qualifying postsecondary educational institution; 4) agree to use the award to obtain a new certificate, degree, or diploma and enroll in at least three academic units per semester; 5) have fully used the student financial aid or educational benefits under the Federal GI Bill or any other Federal educational benefits program; and 6) have submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to the U.S. Department of Education.

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According to a fact sheet from the author's office, the CNG routinely supports State and local governments in times of emergency. Federal responsibilities, such as homeland security, require the CNG to maintain a high level of emergency readiness and response, which places strains on service members, their families and employers. As a result, the CNG encounters difficulties retaining well-trained service members, and failure to maintain adequate participation in the CNG could jeopardize military resources assigned to California.

The author's office further indicates that 49 states have successfully used educational assistance programs to benefit and retain service members; and SB 815 would help them pay for college fees and books at postsecondary education institutions.

The County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs supports this bill because it will provide incentives to retain service members and assist them in furthering their education.

**Support for SB 815 is consistent with Board policy to support increased efforts for training, employment opportunities, and other essential assistance to those who honorably serve in our armed forces.**

SB 815 is supported by the American Legion, the Governor's Office, the Office of the Secretary of Education, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. There is no registered opposition on file. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 18, 2009.

WTF:GK  
MAL:MR:RM:sb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs